

on the COVER



An inside look at one of thousands of water control structures the South Florida Water Management District operates and maintains.

Mangrove islands are a dominant plant community in Estero Bay near Fort Myers Beach.

Governing Board Update

THREE BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

Two new governing board members and one reappointed member were named by Gov. Jeb Bush to serve on the District’s nine-member board. Sworn-in at the District’s workshop meeting on March 8 were:

Alice J. Carlson, of Naples, appointed to succeed Trudi Williams. An experienced financial professional, she is the president of AJC Associates Inc., a real estate consulting firm serving community development districts in Southwest Florida. Her area includes Collier, Lee, Hendry and Charlotte counties.

Malcolm S. Wade Jr., of Clewiston, appointed to succeed Hugh English. A certified public accountant, he is senior vice president, sugar operations, for United States Sugar Corp. He is an at-large member for an area that includes Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, Osceola and Okeechobee counties.

Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E., of Palm City, reappointed by the governor to a second term. He is chairman of the board for LBFH Inc., a consulting engineering, survey and mapping firm based in Palm City. He is an at-large member for an area which includes St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

The three members join Kevin McCarty, Irela Bagué, Pamela Brooks-Thomas, Michael Collins, Nicolás J. Gutiérrez Jr., and Harkley Thornton.



Alice J. Carlson



Malcolm S. Wade Jr.



Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E.



Kevin McCarty
Chair



Irela Bagué
Vice-Chair

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Kevin McCarty, Palm Beach County’s representative on the board, accepted the gavel to serve as chair at the March 9 Governing Board meeting. **Irela Bagué**, representing Miami-Dade County, was elected vice-chair. “I am honored and excited to serve in this expanded leadership role and look forward to the many challenges and opportunities ahead,” McCarty said. Past officers were applauded for their leadership. “We appreciate the contributions of our former chair, Nicolás Gutiérrez, and vice-chair, Pamela Brook-Thomas, for helping make our board a cohesive and focused team,” Bagué said.

Hats Off to a Busy Public Servant

With the Miami River and city as a fitting backdrop, Irela Bagué enthusiastically promotes water conservation and alternative water supply efforts in the urban environment.



IRELA BAGUÉ

Governing Board
Vice-Chair

“On the Miami River Commission, for example, I bring an unbiased view to the table.

I try to balance the concerns of the marine industry, developers and the public. Our goal is to make downtown Miami and the riverfront a great place to work, live and play.”

– IRELA BAGUÉ

On an office wall in downtown Miami, an appealing photograph captures Gov. Jeb Bush standing with South Florida Water Management District Governing Board members Irela Bagué and Nicolás Gutiérrez. Taken at last year’s kickoff event for *Acceler8*, the photo shows a smiling Bagué wearing a stylish straw hat under the bright October sun, symbolizing, it seems, the many hats Bagué wears in public service.

Newly elected as vice-chair of the Governing Board, Bagué also chairs the Miami River Commission, created by the

Florida Legislature as an advisory board for river-related issues. She serves on the board of directors for the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida, Action Community Center, and Friends of the Commission for Women. Bagué also chairs the District’s Human Resources and Outreach Committee and the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Committee. That’s a lot of hats!

Bagué’s professional position is vice-president of Gordon Reyes, a public relations-government affairs firm in Miami. Early in her career, she was a District employee at the Miami-Dade Regional Service Center, as the government and public affairs representative. Her appointment in 2003 to the District’s Governing Board brought Bagué’s career full circle, and she has been watching and supporting District efforts for more than a decade.

One of her favorites is conservation efforts in the urban Miami setting. Extensive downtown development, clearly visible outside her 13th-floor office window, provides numerous examples of Miami’s growth. Bagué points out high-rise condominiums that will feature low-flow showerheads and describes dredging in the Miami River to improve water quality in nearby Biscayne Bay.

Alternative water supplies, which aid conservation efforts, have Bagué’s special interest. “There’s a golf course here in Miami planted with grass that can be irrigated with salt water,” she exclaimed. Bagué also is keeping close watch on desalinization, a rapidly improving technology that holds promise for future water supplies.

Does changing hats to serve many public roles create confusion or conflict?

“Absolutely not,” Bagué assures. “On the Miami River Commission, for example, I bring an unbiased view to the table. I try to balance the concerns of the marine industry, developers and the public. Our goal is to make downtown Miami and the riverfront a great place to work, live and play.”

Progress is certainly evident. Pedestrian walkways and gardens can be spotted along the river’s edge. Dredging in the river has begun, soon to improve shipping operations and Biscayne Bay’s water quality. And sky-scraping condominiums are rising in every direction.

Perhaps another hat – a gold headband – is in order for this hard-working public servant. A picture on her office wall depicts whose headdress that might be — that of her favorite superhero. No surprise that it’s Wonder Woman.